

was a little more money coming in than was necessary to pay out benefits, politicians in this city made popular decisions to expand the benefits. Every time there was less tax money coming in than required to pay out those expanded benefits, Congress and the President would increase the Social Security tax on working Americans. Actually since 1971, Social Security, taxes on these working Americans, has been increased 36 times. More often than once a year since 1971 we have increased the rate or the base on the Social Security taxes. We started out taxing 1.5 percent on the first \$3,500. Now it is 12.4 percent on the first \$68,000.

I would like to suggest as I conclude this, Mr. Speaker, that Social Security in its current configuration is not a good investment. The National Tax Foundation estimates that anybody that retires after the year 2000 will receive back between a negative ½ percent and a negative 1½ percent on the money they and their employers put into Social Security. So if you could take some of this money and allow as an option some of the younger workers to invest in any return that is going to be greater than that kind of negative return in Social Security, then we are much better off.

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that it is so vitally important to preserve Social Security that we forget the rhetoric and get down to business. We get down to the nitty-gritty of the alternatives of how we are going to make it work. I mentioned when we started the program in 1935 the average age of death was 61. Today the average age of death at birth is 74 years old for a male, 76 years old for a female. But if you are lucky enough to reach the retirement age, then on the average you are going to live another 20 years. There are fewer and fewer workers supporting more and more retirees. Hopefully voters, Mr. Speaker, will demand of the people running for office this fall that they have suggestions on how to proceed with this very serious problem of keeping Social Security solvent.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

Bishop Eddie L. Long, Senior Pastor, New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, Decatur, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray. Father, in the name of Jesus, we come before You and claim Your promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14. "If My people, who are called by My name shall humble themselves, pray, seek, crave, and require of necessity My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sins, and heal their land."

We as a Nation stated in our Declaration of Independence through our Founding Fathers, "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator, with certain unalienable rights. . . ."

Lord, the fact that our Founding Fathers declared that nothing we do, or will do, as leaders and citizens of this Nation is legal without God being the foundation of this government is significant. We must turn and legitimize ourselves through repentance so that this Nation can be led into spiritual and earthly clarity as to why it was created. We understand that when You, as Creator and the Founding Father in creation, created fish, You called them from water, yet, in order for them to live, they have to stay connected to the water. When You called trees and vegetation, You called it from the ground. And in order for that to live, it had to stay connected to the earth. When You created us, You called us out of You, and we must stay connected to You that we might have life.

Therefore, God, allow us, along with all creation, to reconnect ourselves into Your Divine, harmonious flow of life, that we would hear from heaven, and our land would be healed. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. MCKINNEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 740

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 740.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

#### APPOINTMENT TO NATIONAL SUMMIT ON RETIREMENT SAVINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of section 517(e)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following participant on the part of the House to the National Summit on Retirement Savings to fill the existing vacancy thereon:

Mr. Jack Ulrich from Pennsylvania.

There was no objection.

#### DRUGS ARE A GROWING NATIONAL CRISIS FOR OUR CHILDREN

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, few in this body would argue that a more worthy cause for Federal funds exists than the fight to keep our Nation's children off of drugs. However, a six-year professional study released yesterday reveals that we are not winning the war on juvenile drug use.

In fact, a dozen other recent studies have all come to the very same conclusion, that, overall, America's efforts just do not deliver on its promise to teach kids to resist drugs.

According to this latest study, last year alone, hundreds of millions of dollars were spent on "feel-good" programs that have apparently had little or no effect on our kids.

Mr. Speaker, this is a growing national crisis that is too important to ignore, too important for our children's future, and too important for us to fail.

Mr. Speaker, this is not about laying blame or pointing fingers, it is about correcting mistakes. The young people in this country are our future, and it is our duty to see that they grow up in a world free of the scourge of drugs.

#### BORIS YELTSIN NEEDS COUNSELING, NOT MONITORING

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and revise and extend his remarks.)